

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**NOAA CHRISTENS NEW RESEARCH VESSEL FOR CALIFORNIA SANCTUARIES--
MEDIA INVITED**

NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is hosting the christening of *R/V Shearwater*, a 62', high-speed Teknicraft aluminum-hull catamaran research vessel, that will step up the state-of-the-art research in Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries.

WHAT: NOAA's Christening of *R/V Shearwater*-Media Cruise and Demonstration

WHEN: Monday, May 12, 10:00 a.m. Christening. 10:45 a.m.-Noon Media Boat Cruise and Demonstration. Due to increased security, must RSVP with exact names for boarding. 8:30-a.m.-10:00 a.m. Invitation-only Vessel Open House dockside. **Please RSVP for dockside boarding.**

WHERE: Sea Landing Dock, Santa Barbara Harbor

WHO: Congresswoman Lois Capps
Frank Kelly, Santa Barbara Harbor Commissioner
Captain Ted I. Lillestolen (NOAA Corps), associate deputy assistant administrator for NOAA's National Ocean Service
Daniel J. Basta, director, National Marine Sanctuary Program
Chris Mobley, manager, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
JASON Argonaut Students

The *R/V Shearwater* is the first research vessel built specifically for sanctuary use. The vessel's onboard facilities and equipment can support extensive research and scuba dive operations such as marine mammal and seabird research, archeological/cultural research and collecting data for emerging management issues. More information on the California sanctuaries go to: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>, <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>, <http://farallones.noaa.gov>, <http://www.cordellbank.nos.noaa.gov>.